(d) whether Government have directed the State Government to intimate the latest position regarding transfer and reversion of Adivasi land; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Patta of forest land to tribals

3565. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided in principal to issue Patta of forest land to the tribals for housing purpose, by dereserving the forest land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many tribal families are likely to be benefited under the said scheme and by when?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, no forest land is normally diverted for any non site specific activity like construction of residential or dwelling houses.

However, there is a provision for regularising such pre-1980 encroachments in respect of which the State Governments had already taken a decision prior to the enactment of the Act to regularise the encroachments, based on certain eligibility criteria fixed at that point of time, but could not implement their decision either wholly or partially before the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Approval to M.P. Forestry Action Plan

†3566. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Forestry Action Plan of Madhya Pradesh has been sent to the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests for approval;

(b) if so, by when, the same would be approved; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons for non-approval thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government of India have received the State Forestry Action Programme prepared by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP) has been formulated by the Government of India after compiling the State Forestry Action Programmes of all the States including that of Madhya Pradesh. The NFAP was presented to international donors in a conference held on 27.9.99 at New Delhi for external assistance.

(c) Does not arise.

National Institute on Wildlife Health

3567. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the creation of a National Institute on Wildlife Health, on the lines of National Wildlife Health Centres in USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to train Zoo doctors, especially in Orissa, for treatment of wild animals in captivity?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No such decision has been taken so far.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Central Zoo Authority sponsors one veterinarian every year for the training at Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, U.K. So far seven veterinarians have undergone this training including one from Nandankanan Park. Indian Veterinarian Institute (IVI), Bareilly also organizes training courses for Zoo veterinarians every year. State Government has also constituted a panel of veterinarians to monitor the health of animals in Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar.

Faunal Exploration and Survey in Orissa

3568. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in Orissa, under the Faunal Exploration and Survey project carried out for States;